

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7218**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1300

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 10, 2013

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Battery Against Court Employees.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Lawson L

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill makes battery a Class D felony if the offense is committed against a judicial officer or court employee while the judicial officer or court employee is engaged in the officer's or employee's official duty.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2013.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill would add judicial officers or court employees to the list of people for which battery is a Class D felony instead of a Class B misdemeanor for knowingly or intentionally touches the person in a rude, insolent, or angry manner. The list currently includes law enforcement officers, Department of Corrections employees, school employees, health care providers, firefighters, community policing volunteers, and Department of Child Services employees. For CY 2011, approximately 171 people were committed for this type of battery.

A Class D felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from six months to three years or reduction to Class A misdemeanor, depending upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$18,582 in FY 2012. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the marginal cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$3,234 annually, or \$8.86 daily, per prisoner. The estimated average cost of housing a juvenile in a state juvenile facility was \$78,318 in FY 2012. The average length of stay in DOC facilities for all Class D felony offenders is approximately ten months while a Class A misdemeanor is punishable up to one year in local jail.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class D felony is \$10,000 while a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund.

If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 criminal costs fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund. In addition, some or all of the automated record keeping fee (\$5), judicial salaries fee (\$20), public defense administration fee (\$5), court administration fee (\$5), judicial insurance adjustment fee (\$1), and the DNA sample processing fee (\$2) are deposited into the state General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. The average cost per day is approximately \$44.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 criminal costs fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of the criminal costs fee. Persons found guilty of a felony or misdemeanor are also required to pay the document storage fee (\$2), which is deposited into the clerk record perpetuation fund, and the jury fee (\$2) and the law enforcement continuing education fee (\$4), which are both deposited in the county user fee fund.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Correction.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies. Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Sheriffs' Association, Department of Correction.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.